(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh is a land-locked State with high export and having the potential increasing rate of export;

(d) if so, whether the State gets full advantage of being in such position;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether State Government have requested for the immediate release of a sum of minimm Rs.30 crore as Central assistance for the year 2004-05 under this scheme, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) to (e) The allocation of funds to States/Union Territories under the State component of ASIDE Scheme is made *inter-alia*, on the basis of the State-wise data for merchandise exports compiled by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). Uttar Pradesh has the potential for an increase in its exports. An amount of Rs. 12.59 crore had been released to Uttar Pradesh under the State component of ASIDE Scheme in 2004-05. An allocation of Rs. 21 crore has ben made to Uttar Pradesh for 2005-06.

(f) The Government fo Uttar Pradesh had requested for the allocation of Rs. 20 crore udner the ASIDE Scheme for 2004-05.

Special IT and excise rebate to backward States

†2987. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given special rebate to Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal in income tax and excise assuming them as backward States;

(b) whether such kind of rebate will also be provided to similar backward States and even more backward States; and

(c) if not, whether it would not amount to injustice to the extremely backward States of the country?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) to (c) The Government announced a Special package of economic incentives on 07-01-2003 for promoting industrialization in the States of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. Under the package, various incentives like income tax exemption, excise exemption and Capital Investment Subsidy to new industrial units and existing industrial units on their substantial expansion have been provided. These concessions were announced keeping in view that the States of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh are hilly, remote and have poor accessibility to markets and also have poor infrastructure. Other backward States like North Eastern States including Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir have also been granted a similar package of incentives.

Export of rice and wheat

2988. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat exported from India during 2003-04 and the countries to which it was exported;

(b) whether any irregularity on export brought to the notice of Government by the CAG and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whetehr any forged documents have been used in the dealing and what was the use of STC and MMTC in the export of food commodities; and

(d) whether Government conducted any inquirty into the matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) Following is the quantity of wheat and rice exported during 2003-04.

Quantity in Metric Tonnes

Basmati-Rice	Non Basmati-Rice	Wheat
7,70,764	26,01,471	40,93,081